Addis Ababa Call to Action on a high-level ministerial meeting on investing in human resources for health for sustainable development, 17 July 2015

We, Ministers of Finance and Economy and Ministers of Health from African countries assembled in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 17 July 2015, at the margins of the 3rd international conference on financing for development, to share experiences and discuss on investing in human resources for health for sustainable development.

Taking note that investment in HRH remains low; As a result there is a huge gap between the health worker supply and demand affecting the quality of service provision, severe HRH shortages, deficiencies in distribution and performance, gender imbalances and poor working environments for health workers remain matters of major concern.

Recognizing that in addition to addressing current challenges, future health workforce development will also be affected by an evolving disease burden, characterized by a greater need for prevention, treatment and care of non-communicable diseases; demographic trends, including adolescent and ageing population; technological advances; and broader development and macro-economic factors, which will create new opportunities for investment in health.

We therefore urge all Africa members States to:

- Substantially increase domestic financing for recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce as per target 3.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, and as a catalyst to achieve other goals and targets on education, employment, gender equality and poverty.

- Support and optimize the capacity of the existing workforce to improve performance and productivity, including at community level.

  Invest in national community health care services with relevant resources including domestic resources to enhance equity in access and to achieve universal health coverage

- Encourage South-South learning collaboration for human resource development, including the establishment of Africa regional training centres with toolkits for human resources for health development, capacity building and knowledge management

- Commit to work collaboratively within governments to create national fiscal space for investing in human resources for health for sustainable development

Call on all members States of the African Union to endorse this Call to Action and to take the bold steps necessary to accelerate the implementation of the commitments made by countries of the African continent to increase domestic financing for health as stated in the Abuja declaration

Call on development banks and financing institutions to develop financing instruments and support fiscal space for investing in human resources for health for sustainable development including for African middle income countries

Further call on development partners, global funding agencies and other financing bodies to ensure that they support and align behind public health priorities and strategies of African States
Call on development partners to support governments’ plans for predictable, long-term financing for health systems strengthening, especially health workforce development as recommended by the High Level Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems

Call upon on African Union and Africa Regional Economic Committees to facilitate and enhance the implementation of this call to action

Express our gratitude to the Government of Ethiopia and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for hosting this Ministerial meeting on investing in Human Resources for Health for sustainable development and urge the Government of Ethiopia and UNFPA and other partners to carry forward this dialogue between Ministers of Health and Finances for this critical investment on Human Resource for Health

Annex

This call builds on previous declarations and commitments made across the Globe and in Africa, including: the WHO Technical Consultation on the Global Strategy on HRH: Workforce 2030, held in Accra, Ghana on 8-9 July, 2015; the third global forum on human resources for health held in Recife, Brazil in 2013; the Africa Road map for Scaling up Human Resources for Health for Improved Service Delivery in the African Region 2012-2025 (2013); the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel (2010), the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa, and the Africa Agenda 2063 which seeks to ‘catalyse an education and skills revolution and actively promote science, technology, research and innovation, to build knowledge, human resources, capabilities and skills for the African continent’